

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on September 15, 2000, Lannes Neil Johnson was sentenced in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri, Springfield, MO, to three years probation and a special assessment fee of \$50. The sentencing follows a June 21, 1999, plea in which Johnson pleaded guilty to a one-count indictment for conspiring to submit false claims to the U.S. Government.

The sentence and guilty plea were the result of an investigation that disclosed Johnson, former laboratory manager of Mid America Clinical Laboratories, conspired to submit false claims in connection with the receipt of over \$200,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the DoD. Johnson obtained over \$200,000 by submitting for Medicare Program and TRICARE beneficiaries requests for payment of clinical laboratory services that were not ordered for such beneficiaries by physicians or were billed as component elements of chemistry tests panels or profiles. TRICARE was formerly the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services.